AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and versions, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) <u>A method for treating or preventing a neurodegenerative disease comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of an ATP7A-interatcing molecule.</u> ~~Use of a ATP7A-interacting molecule for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a neurogenerative disease.~~

2. (Currently amended) The ~~use~~ <u>method</u> of claim 1, wherein the ATP7A-interacting molecule is a ATP7A-inhibitor.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~use~~ <u>method</u> of claim 2, wherein the inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of antibodies, antisense oligonucleotides, siRNA, low molecular weight molecules (LMWs), binding peptides, aptamers, ribozymes and peptidomimetics.

4. (Currently amended) The ~~use of any~~ <u>method</u> of claims 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein ATP7A is part of an intracellular protein complex.

5. (Currently amended) The ~~use of any~~ <u>method</u> of claims 1 ~~to 4~~, wherein the interacting molecule or inhibitor modulates the activity of gamma-secretase and/or beta-secretase.

6. (Currently amended) The ~~use of any~~ <u>method</u> of claims 1 ~~to 5~~, wherein the neurodegenerative disease is Alzheimer's disease.

7. (Original) A method for identifying a gamma-secretase and/or a beta-secretase modulator, comprising the following steps:

   a. identifying of a ATP7A-interacting molecule by determining whether a given test compound is a ATP7A-interacting molecule,

b. determining whether the ATP7A-interacting molecule of step a) is capable of modulating gamma-secretase and/or beta-secretase activity.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein in step a) the test compound is brought into contact with ATP7A and the interaction of ATP7A with the test compound is determined.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the interaction of the test compound with ATP7A results in an inhibition of ATP7A activity.

10. (Currently amended) The method of any of claims 7 to 9, wherein in step b) the ability of the gamma-secretase and/or the beta-secretase to cleave APP is measured, preferably wherein the ability to produce Abeta 42 is measured.

11. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases, comprising the following steps:

   a. identifying a gamma-secretase and/or beta-secretase modulator according to claims 7 to 10, and

   b. formulating the gamma-secretase and/or beta-secretase modulator to a pharmaceutical composition.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of mixing the identified molecule with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

13-17. (Cancelled)

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